

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A computer implemented method for executing tools in a service control manager (SCM) module, the method comprising:

receiving, by the SCM module, a request from a user to run a tool on one or more nodes, wherein the request includes task information;

retrieving, by the SCM module, tool definition, node definition and user definition from a domain manager, wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool;

checking if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool on all of the nodes;

creating a runnable tool by a client based on the task information and the tool definition;

passing the runnable tool from the client to a distributed task facility (DTF), wherein the DTF issues a task identifier based on the runnable tool; and

passing the runnable tool from the DTF to agents associated with the nodes, wherein the agents are authorized users, and wherein the agents execute the runnable tool and return task results to the DTF.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising validating the task information received from the user.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising checking user authorization to run the tool on all of the nodes requested.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request through a client, wherein the client is a program that interacts with the user and displays information on computer systems that reside on the nodes.

5. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request from a graphical user interface client.
6. (original): The method of claim 4, wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request from a command line interface client for executing tasks.
7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
collecting, by the SCM module, the task results from the agents; and  
returning the task results to the user.
8. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the collecting step includes collecting failure reports from the agents.
9. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the collecting step includes updating individual target statuses.
10. (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the collecting step includes collecting target outputs that contain an exit code, a standard output, or a standard error output that resulted from running commands associated with the tool on the nodes.
11. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the collecting step includes updating an overall task status.
12. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the returning step includes displaying the task results on a computer screen.
13. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the returning step includes printing the task results on a printer.
14. (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the returning step includes writing the task results to a file or to a directory, wherein the directory contains one file for each node requested and the results for each node are written to the corresponding file in the directory.

15. (previously presented): A service control manager (SCM) module for the execution of a tool, the SCM module comprising:

clients that are software programs interacting with users and displaying information on the computer systems that reside on nodes that are managed servers in the SCM module;

a domain manager that manages and stores tool definitions, node definitions, role definitions, authorization definitions, and user definitions, wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool, wherein the SCM module checks if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool on all of the nodes, and wherein the clients creates a runnable tool based on information returned from the domain manager;

a distributed task facility (DTF) that receives the runnable tool from the clients, and issues a task identifier based on the runnable tool; and

agents associated with the nodes that receive the runnable tool from the DTF, and execute the tool on the nodes, wherein the agents are authorized users.

16. (original): The SCM module of claim 15, wherein the DTF receives the runnable tool from the clients through task manager interfaces, wherein the task manager interfaces are called by the clients to perform a task, to cancel or kill a task, or to monitor task status operations.

17. (original): The SCM module of claim 15, wherein the agents receive the runnable tool from the DTF through target liaison interfaces, wherein the target liaison interfaces are used by the agents to communicate with the DTF in order to process assigned tasks.

18. (currently amended): A computer implemented method for executing tools in a service control manager (SCM) module, the method comprising:

receiving, by the SCM module, a request from a user to run a tool on one or more nodes, wherein the request includes task information;

retrieving, by the SCM module, tool definition, node definition and user definition from a domain manager, wherein the tool definition specifies a role that contains the requested tool;

checking if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool, wherein the user is authorized to run the requested tool only if the user is assigned with the role containing the requested tool on all of the nodes;

creating a runnable tool by a client based on the task information and the tool definition provided by a domain manager;

passing the runnable tool from the client to a distributed task facility (DTF);

passing the runnable tool from the DTF to agents associated with the nodes, wherein the agents are authorized user;

running the tool on the nodes by the agents; and

returning task results or failure reports to the DTF.

19. (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the receiving step includes receiving the request through a client, wherein the client is a program that interacts with the user and displays information on computer systems that reside on the nodes.

20. (original): The method of claim 18, wherein the returning step includes returning target outputs that contain an exit code, a standard output, or a standard error output that resulted from running the commands associated with the tool on the nodes.